

HIT

COMICS

NOVEMBER
No. 61



1954

10¢

Introducing
JEB RIVERS
IN A SIZZLING TALE
OF THE
TURBULENT MISSISSIPPI
IN ITS HEYDAY!





WEB COMIC
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-Hi Fellows! The NEW

LIONEL TRAINS

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I enclose 10c. Please send me the new 40-page,
full-color Lionel Train Catalog for 1949.

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JEB RIVERS

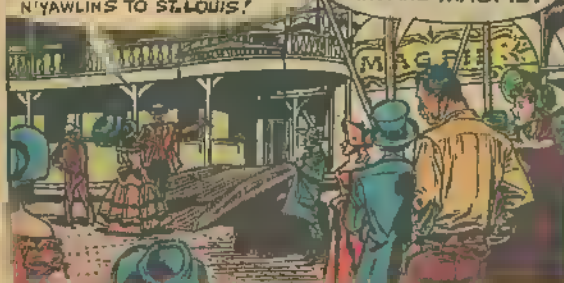


STEAM'S UP! ALL ABOARD FOR ADVENTURE!
A JOURNEY THROUGH THE GREAT DAYS OF THE OLD MISSISSIPPI RIVER, WHEN AMERICA'S FATHER OF WATERS KNEW IT WASN'T EVERY RIPPLE! PADDLE WHEELS WHIRL! GUNS ROAR! IT'S DO OR DIE, SINK OR SAIL, VICTORY OR OBLIVION FOR JEB RIVERS AND HIS YOUNG PARTNER CATFISH!

The RIVER FRONT OF OLD NEW ORLEANS AND... WHAT'S THIS?

LADDEEZ AND GENTLEMEN! IN FIFTEEN MINUTES THE RACE WILL START UP RIVER... **ONE THOUSAND MILES AGAINST THE CURRENT...** FOR A NEW RECORD FROM N'YAWLINS TO ST. LOUIS!

KEEREECT! CAP'N LUCIUS PELHAM'S UPSTART EXPERIMENTAL CRAFT **PARAGON** CHALLENGES CAP'N TYBURN'S RECORD-HOLDING **MAGPIE!**



WHO'LL BET ON THE PARAGON? I OFFER THREE TO ONE ON THE MAGPIE!

NO BETS, MISTER, BUT I'M OVERDUE IN ST. LOUIS AND WANT TO BUY PASSAGE ON ONE OF THE BOATS!

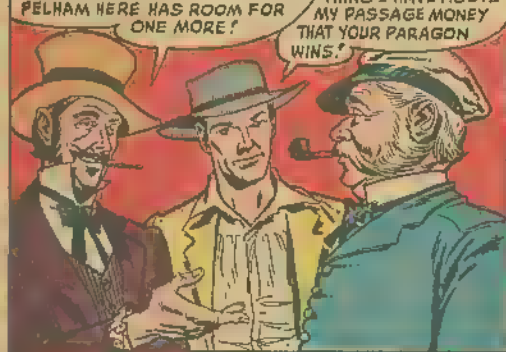


SORRY, FRIEND, BUT NOBODY'S ALLOWED ON EITHER CRAFT WITHOUT VENTURING MONEY ON ITS CHANCES! THE MAGGIE'S FULL UP... BUT PERHAPS CAPTAIN PELHAM HERE HAS ROOM FOR ONE MORE?

CAPTAIN PELHAM, I'M JEB RIVERS! SINCE IT'S NECESSARY, I'LL BET EVERYTHING I HAVE ABOVE MY PASSAGE MONEY THAT YOUR PARAGON WINS!

I'LL ACCOMMODATE THE GENTLEMAN! THREE TO ONE, AND JUDGE FONTAINE OF NEW ORLEANS WILL HOLD STAKES FOR US!

YOU'RE THE LAST PASSENGER I CAN TAKE, MR. RIVERS! BRING YOUR LUGGAGE!



I HAVEN'T ANY LUGGAGE, CAPTAIN! SO LET ME CARRY MY YOUNG PARTNER, CATFISH! HE GOES WHEREVER I GO!

LIVE WEIGHT'S NO HEAVIER THAN DEAD WEIGHT! ABOARD, THEN, BOTH OF YOU!

I SAIL WITH THE MAGGIE, LIKE YOU! IN ST. LOUIS I SETTLE THE WAGER, AND MAY THE BEST BOAT WIN, SIR!

THANKS, JUDGE, THE MAGGIE WILL! SEE YOU ABOARD AFTER I'VE SPOKEN TO MR. GOOLER YONDER!



GOOLER, I BET THE MONEY YOU GAVE ME ON THE MAGGIE! BUT I STILL DON'T SEE WHY YOU'RE SAILING ON THE PARAGON WHEN YOU BET AGAINST HER!

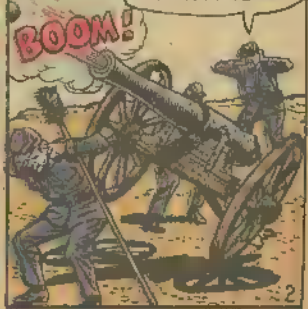
OF COURSE YOU DON'T SEE, YOU FOOL! I SAIL ON HER TO MAKE SURE SHE LOSES!

SINCE WE'RE TO BE FELLOW PASSENGERS ON THIS MEMORABLE JOURNEY, PERMIT ME... MY NAME IS GOOLER!

I'M JEB RIVERS, AT YOUR SERVICE! AND THIS IS CAT-FISH!

THE LAST PASSENGERS ARE ABOARD, THE GANGPLANKS LIFT, AND...

THEY'RE OFF! NECK AND NECK UP THE RIVER... WHAT A PICTURE!



IT'LL BE THREE DAYS AT LEAST BEFORE WE REACH ST. LOUIS! PERHAPS WE COULD PASS THE TIME IN PLAYING CARDS IN A FRIENDLY FASHION ...

SORRY, MR. GOOLER, MY EXTRA CASH WENT FOR A BET ON THE PARAGON TO GET MY PLACE ABOARD HER! AND I'M ANXIOUS TO SEE CAPTAIN PELHAM ... HE WENT ALOFT TO THE PILOT HOUSE!

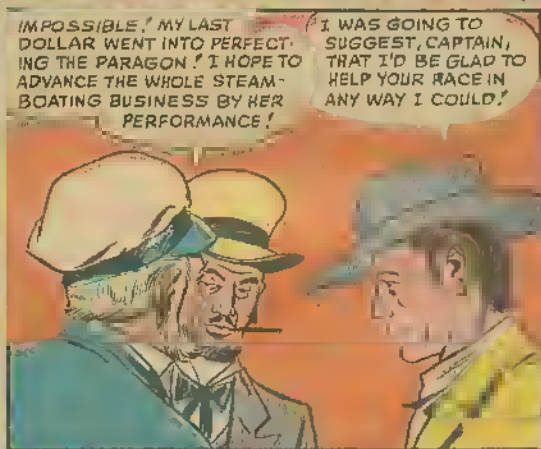
AHOY, ENGINES! WE'RE IN THE CHANNEL ... FULL STEAM STARBOARD AND LARBOARD! I'LL TRY TO BEAT THE MAGPIE TO SIX MILE POINT!

I'M GOING BELOW, MARNIE! I CAN DEPEND ON YOU TO GET US AN EARLY LEAD!



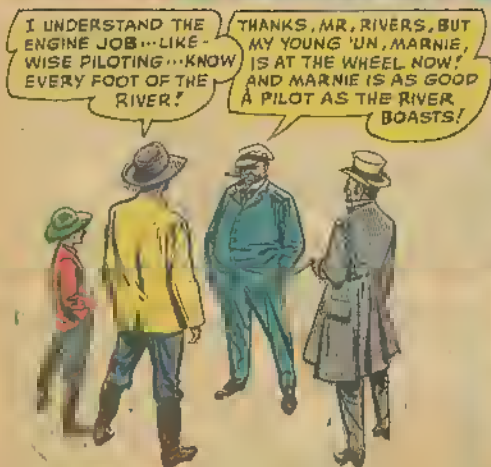
AH, MR. GOOLER! YOU'RE ABOARD MY CRAFT ... WHICH MEANS YOU WAGERED ON HER TO WIN!

NATURALLY, CAPTAIN! AND I'M LOOKING FOR ANOTHER FRIENDLY WAGER ... CARDS, THIS TIME!



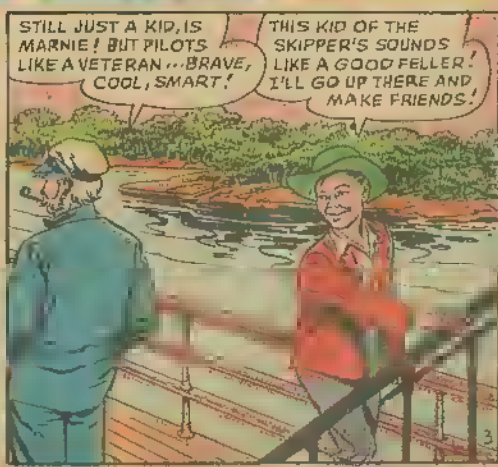
IMPOSSIBLE! MY LAST DOLLAR WENT INTO PERFECTING THE PARAGON! I HOPE TO ADVANCE THE WHOLE STEAM-BOATING BUSINESS BY HER PERFORMANCE!

I WAS GOING TO SUGGEST, CAPTAIN, THAT I'D BE GLAD TO HELP YOUR RACE IN ANY WAY I COULD!



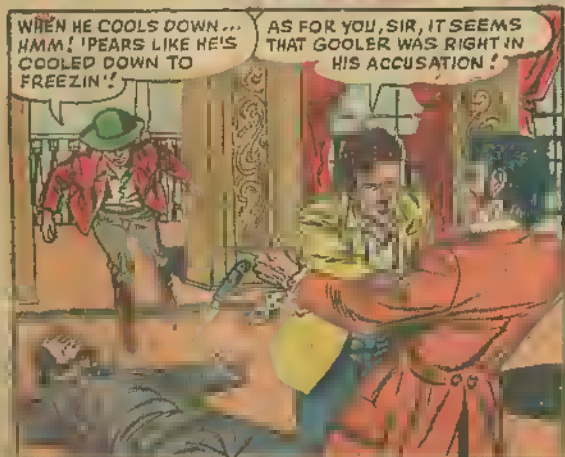
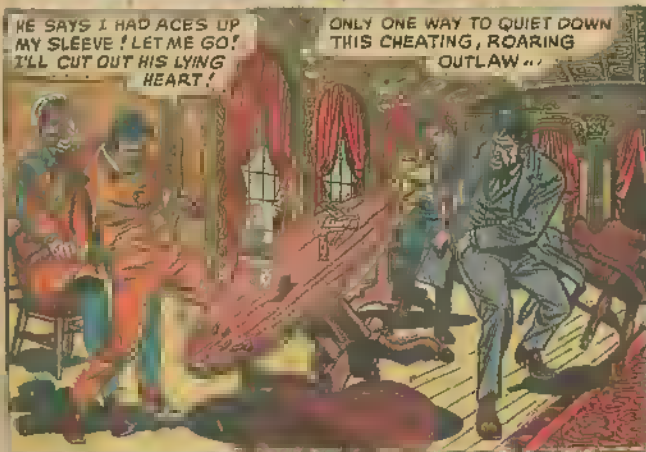
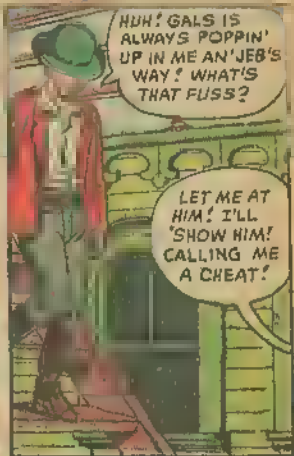
I UNDERSTAND THE ENGINE JOB ... LIKE-WISE PILOTING ... KNOW EVERY FOOT OF THE RIVER!

THANKS, MR. RIVERS, BUT MY YOUNG 'UN, MARNIE, IS AT THE WHEEL NOW! AND MARNIE IS AS GOOD A PILOT AS THE RIVER BOASTS!



STILL JUST A KID, IS MARNIE! BUT PILOTS LIKE A VETERAN ... BRAVE, COOL, SMART!

THIS KID OF THE SKIPPER'S SOUNDS LIKE A GOOD FELLER! I'LL GO UP THERE AND MAKE FRIENDS!



MY POLICY HAS ALWAYS BEEN TO PUT A CARD SHARP ASHORE THE FIRST PLACE WE TOUCH!

WAIT, CAPTAIN PELHAM! LET ME SUGGEST A LITTLE MERCY ON MR. ROKE!

THIS IS A RACE, REMEMBER! WE CAN HARDLY SPARE EVEN A FEW MOMENTS TO PUT AN UNDESIRABLE PASSENGER ON THE BANKS! AND ROKE HAS LEARNED HIS LESSON, I'M SURE!

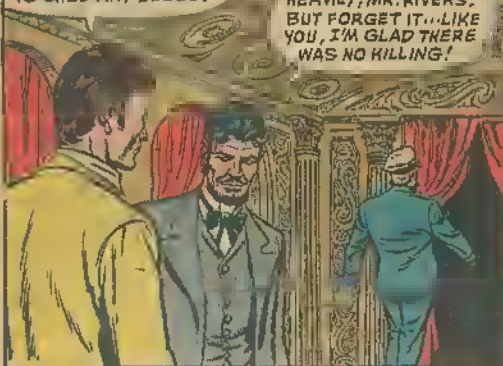
WHAT YOU SAY IS TRUE, MR. GOOLER! HE CAN STAY, BUT CARD-PLAYING ABOARD THE PARAGON IS FORBIDDEN TO HIM!



BEG PARDON FOR HITTING YOU SO HARD, SIR! I DIDN'T WANT YOU TO SHED ANY BLOOD!

PERHAPS IF I'D BEEN ON GUARD YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE SCORED SO HEAVILY, MR. RIVERS! BUT FORGET IT... LIKE YOU, I'M GLAD THERE WAS NO KILLING!

MMM... YES! ROKE ALIVE MAY BE MORE VALUABLE THAN ROKE DEAD!



WISH I'D GONE ABOARD THE MAGPIE! OW THAT GOOLER HAS CAUGHT ME CHEATING, NOBODY HERE WILL EVEN SPEAK TO ME!

WRONG, ROKE! I'M HERE TO SHAKE HANDS AND BE FRIENDS... TO OUR MUTUAL PROFIT!

SINCE YOU CAN'T EARN MONEY BY YOUR CLEVER CARD TRICKS, MAYBE YOU'LL BE GLAD TO MAKE A FEW DOLLARS BY HELPING ME SEE THAT THE MAGPIE WINS THE RACE!

YOU MEAN, SLOW DOWN THE PARAGON? WHAT IF I TOLD CAPTAIN PELHAM YOU'D SUGGESTED SUCH A THING?



IN THAT CASE, HE'D CALL YOU
A LIAR... SAY YOU WERE MAKING
UP STORIES TO GET EVEN WITH
ME!

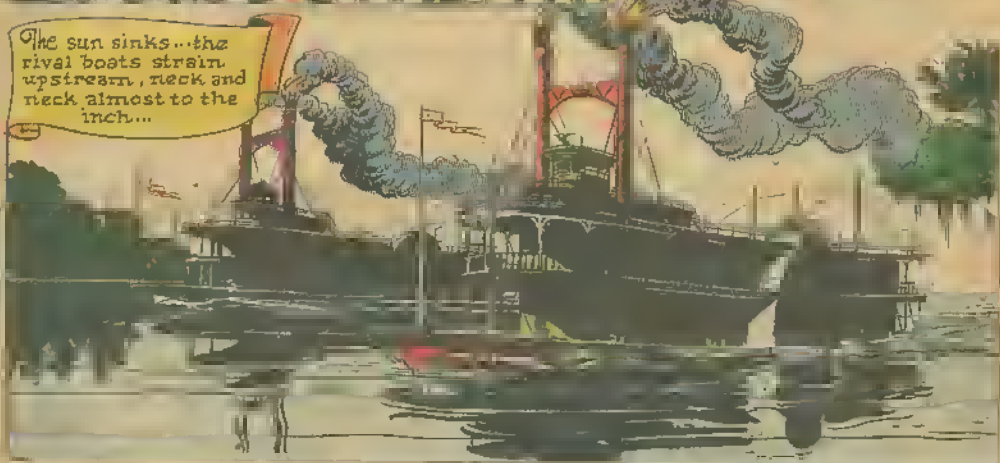
YOU LEAVE ME NO
ARGUMENTS, GOOLER!
HOW DO WE OPERATE?

WELL, WHEN EVENING
FALLS AND CAPTAIN
PELHAM GOES TO THE
PILOT HOUSE TO TAKE THE
WHEEL, WE... PST,
PST,
PST...

I
UNDER-
STAND!



The sun sinks...the
rival boats strain
upstream, neck and
neck almost to the
inch...



GO BELOW AND
GET A GOOD REST,
MARNIE! YOU'VE
DONE FAMOUSLY
FOR THE START OF
THE RACE!

I'LL SEND YOU
UP A MUG OF
HOT COFFEE,
FATHER!



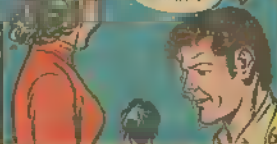
OH,
CATFISH!

DON'T PAY HER NO MIND,
JEB! IT'S CAP'N PELHAM'S
GAL CHILD, MARNIE,
TRYIN' TO ACT LIKE
SHE'S AS GOOD
AS US
MEN!



IS CATFISH ANGRY WITH ME? I
WAS GOING TO LET HIM TAKE
SOME COFFEE UP TO MY
FATHER... THOUGHT ANY BOY
WOULD LIKE TO VISIT THE
PILOT
HOUSE!

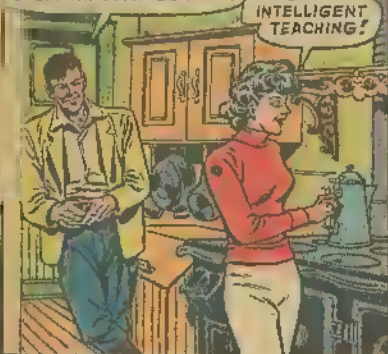
GIVE CATFISH A FEW
YEARS AND MAYBE
LADIES WON'T EM-
BARRASS HIM, MISS
MARNIE! MY NAME'S
JEB RIVERS... PER-
HAPS YOU'LL ALLOW
ME TO TAKE THE
COFFEE TO
HAM!



HIT COMICS

YOUR FATHER HAS DESIGNED A SPLENDID CRAFT, MISS MARNIE! AND YOU MUST BE A PILOT OF PILOTS TO BEGIN THE RACE SO WELL!

FLATTERER! I'M ONLY THE PRODUCT OF FATHER'S TIRELESS AND INTELLIGENT TEACHING!



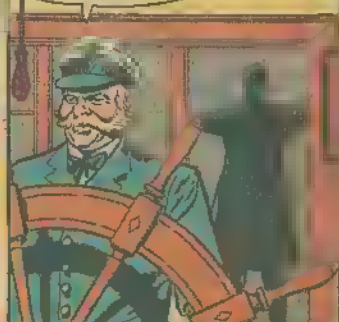
FATHER TOLD ME HOW YOU HELPED HIM HANDLE A CROOKED GAMBLER TODAY, MR. RIVERS! LET ME ADD MY THANKS TO HIS... AND HERE'S THE COFFEE YOU SAID YOU'D TAKE TO HIM!

SHE'S JUST LIKE ALL THE OTHER GALS! ONE LOOK AT JEB AND SHE STARTS MAKIN' EYES!



MEANWHILE, IN THE PILOT HOUSE...

WHO'S THAT? MARNIE? HOPE YOU BROUGHT COFFEE... I'LL NEED IT TONIGHT!



JUST SET IT ON THE SHELF, AND WHEN YOU GO BELOW, TELL THE ENGINEER TO...

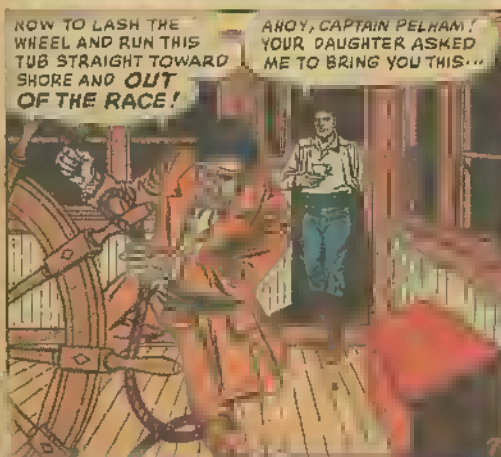


IT WAS TOO EASY!



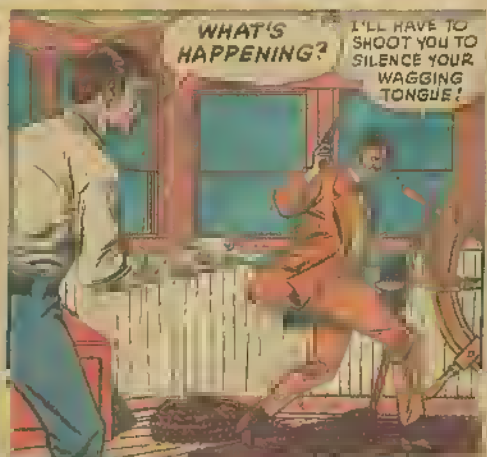
NOW TO LASH THE WHEEL AND RUN THIS TUB STRAIGHT TOWARD SHORE AND OUT OF THE RACE!

AHOY, CAPTAIN PELHAM! YOUR DAUGHTER ASKED ME TO BRING YOU THIS...



WHAT'S HAPPENING?

I'LL HAVE TO SHOOT YOU TO SILENCE YOUR WAGGING TONGUE!



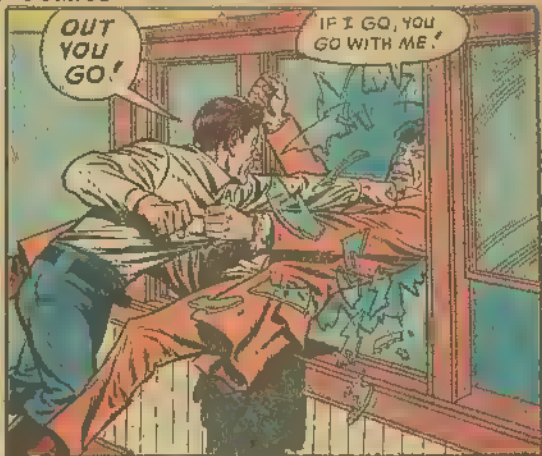
NO SHOOTING... THAT'S
UNFRIENDLY! HERE...
TASTE THE COFFEE!

YAAAAA!



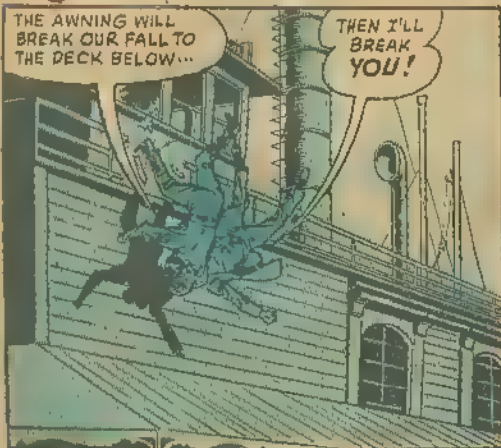
OUT
YOU
GO!

IF I GO, YOU
GO WITH ME!



THE AWNING WILL
BREAK OUR FALL TO
THE DECK BELOW...

THEN I'LL
BREAK
YOU!



WHO...
WHAT...

MY PARTNER JEB'S
BATTLIN' WITH SOME-
BODY! WHICH IS JUST
TOO BAD FOR THE
SOMEBODY!



OWW!

HOORAY FOR JEB!
YOU POPPED HIM
PLUMB IN THE
PIE-GRABBER!

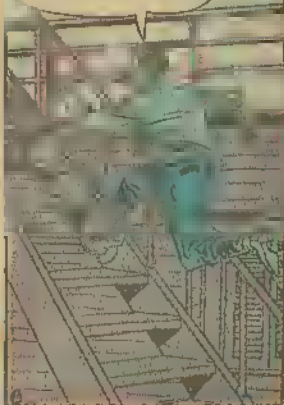


HE'S FALLING INTO
THE RIVER. QUICK,
HELP HIM

LET HIM GO HE
DESERVES IT
HE TRIED TO
WRECK THE
PARAGON!



[WE HAVE ONLY SECONDS TO
PUT THINGS RIGHT!]



FATHER...HURT!
AND WE'RE HEADED
FOR THAT ISLAND!

AWOY, ENGINES!
BACK WATER
WITH BOTH!

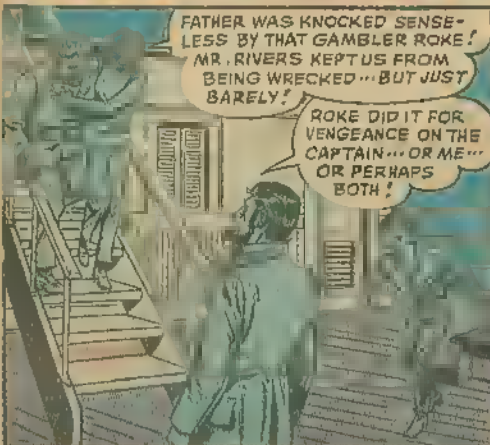


WE MISSED IT BY
INCHES! GET THE
CAPTAIN BELOW...
I'LL PILOT FOR
A WHILE!



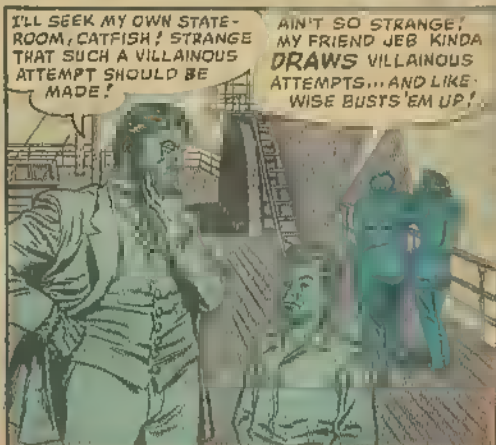
FATHER WAS KNOCKED SENSE-
LESS BY THAT GAMBLER ROKE!
MR. RIVERS KEPT US FROM
BEING WRECKED...BUT JUST
BARELY!

ROKE DID IT FOR
VENGEANCE ON THE
CAPTAIN...OR ME...
OR PERHAPS
BOTH!



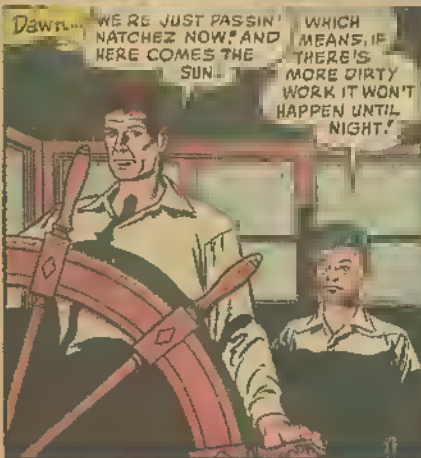
I'LL SEEK MY OWN STATE-
ROOM, CATFISH! STRANGE
THAT SUCH A VILLAINOUS
ATTEMPT SHOULD BE
MADE!

AIN'T SO STRANGE!
MY FRIEND JEB KINDA
DRAWS VILLAINOUS
ATTEMPTS...AND LIKE
WISE BUSTS 'EM UP!



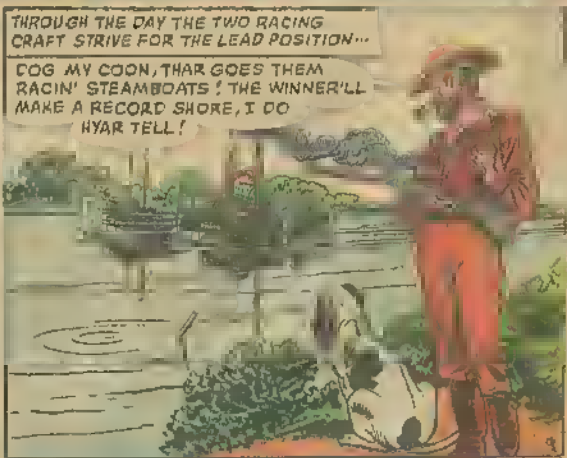
DOWN... WE'RE JUST PASSIN'
NÂTCHÉZ NOW! AND
HERE COMES THE
SUN!

WHICH MEANS, IF
THERE'S
MORE DIRTY
WORK IT WON'T
HAPPEN UNTIL
NIGHT!

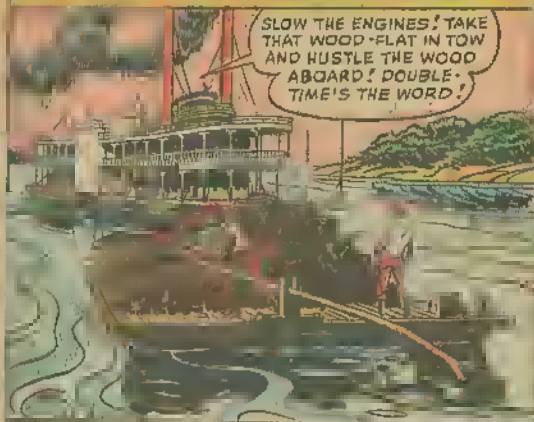


THROUGH THE DAY THE TWO RACING
CRAFT STRIVE FOR THE LEAD POSITION...

COG MY COON, THAR GOES THEM
RACIN' STEAMBOATS! THE WINNER'LL
MAKE A RECORD SHORE, I DO
HYAR TELL!



FRESH FUEL IS HURRIED TO THE STRIVING ENGINES ...



SLOW THE ENGINES! TAKE THAT WOOD-PLAT IN TOW AND HUSTLE THE WOOD ABOARD! DOUBLE-TIME'S THE WORD!

WE'LL PASS VICKSBURG BEFORE SUNDOWN... GET TO MEMPHIS BY MIDNIGHT AND REACH CAIRO BY EVENING OF OUR THIRD DAY!

THE NEXT TRY AT WRECKING THIS CURSED SPEED SCOW MUST **NOT** FAIL! AND IN MY STATEROOM I HAVE...



MISS MARNIE, IT WAS AN HONOR TO ME TO SHARE THE PILOTING JOB WITH **RIVER ARTISTS** LIKE YOUR FATHER AND YOURSELF.

HUNKERS! THERE HE GOES, TALKIN' POLITE TO A GAL. ME, I'M GONNA GO LOOK UP MR. GOOLER... HE'S **MALE COM-PANY**... WHERE'S HIS STATE ROOM NOW?



HERE IT IS... AND INSIDE IS... **WHAT IS INSIDE?**



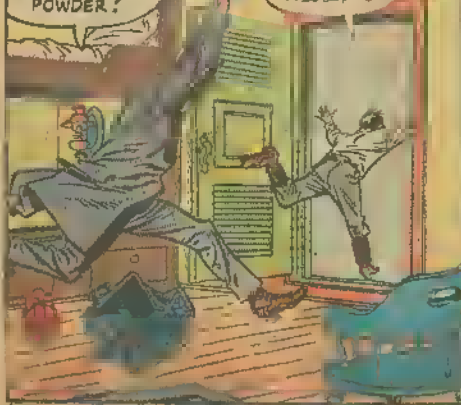
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE, YOU MISERABLE LITTLE SNEAKING SPY?

I'M LOOKIN' AT WHAT YOU GOT THERE... **DYNAMITE AND FUSE!** YOU'RE GOIN' TO BLOW UP THE BOAT, HUH?



SHUT UP, OR I'LL SMASH YOU TO POWDER!

JEB! JEB! **HELP!**



THOSE HOWLS WILL BE YOUR LAST SOUNDS ON EARTH! **CATFISH!**

CATFISH! WHAT'S GOOLER TRYIN' TO DO?



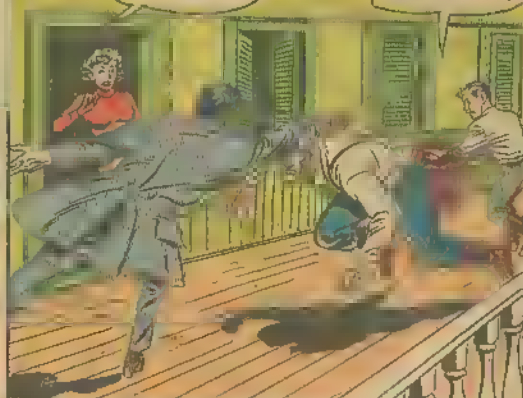
LAY A FINGER ON MY PARTNER AND I'LL BUST YOU ON THE NOSE!

AHA! THAT CLUMSY ROKE COULDN'T ACCOUNT FOR YOU, BUT I CAN!



STOP HIM! HE'LL STAB MR. RIVERS!

DON'T WORRY, MISS MARNIE!



NOW THINGS ARE EVEN!

THEN I'LL HAVE TO FINISH RIVERS WITH MY BARE HANDS!



HORRIBLE! MR. RIVERS MAY BE HURT...

OOF!

NOT JEB, MISS MARNIE! HE'S SPECIAL HANDY WITH HIS FISTS!



ONCE HE FOUGHT A TEN-ROUND DRAW WITH THE BRITISH BAREKNUCKLE CHAMPION IN CINCINNATI!

STAND UP AND FIGHT, GOOLER!

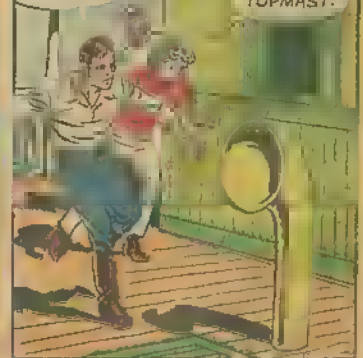


HELP! DECK HANDS! THERE'S A KILLER LOOSE ABOARD!



HE DUCKED AROUND THIS CORNER AND VANISHED FROM SIGHT!

GET MORE MEN! SEARCH THIS BOAT FROM KEEL TO TOPMAST!



BUT ANOTHER NIGHT, ANOTHER DAY AND ANOTHER NIGHT HAVE PASSED, WHEN...

THE HANDS SAY THAT THEY'VE SEARCHED EVERY NOOK AND CORNER AND GOOLER CAN'T BE FOUND! PERHAPS HE WENT OVERBOARD!

I HOPE SO, MR. RIVERS. AS TO THIS BAGFUL OF DYNAMITE HE BROUGHT ABOARD, HOW ABOUT KEEPING IT SAFE HERE IN YOUR STATEROOM?



THERE! IT'S LOCKED IN, AND ONLY CATFISH AND I HAVE KEYS! AND THE RACE IS NEARLY OVER!

THE PARAGON IS SEVERAL MILES AHEAD OF THE MAG'PIE! WE'LL BE AT THE PIER IN ST. LOUIS BEFORE SUNDOWN! I'LL GO RELIEVE MARNIE AT THE WHEEL!



But as Jeb and Captain Pelham depart...

THEY SEARCHED EVERY NOOK AND CRANNY... EXCEPT THIS STATEROOM OF THE FOOLS THEY TRUSTED!



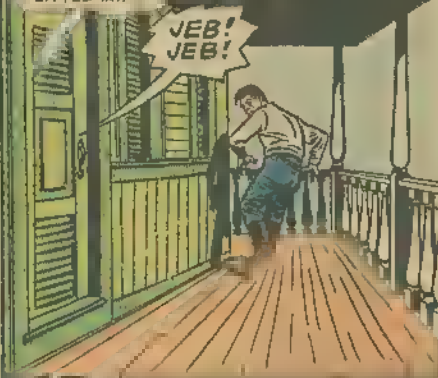
THEY EVEN LEFT MY DYNAMITE HANDY FOR MY USE!

RIGHT, GOOLER! AND THEY LEFT ME TO SEE HOW QUICK YOU GOT TO IT!



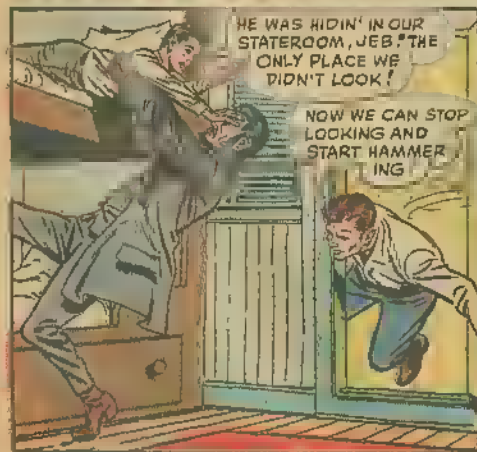
THIS TIME I'LL FINISH YOU PERMANENTLY YOU NOSEY LITTLE IMP!

JEB! JEB!



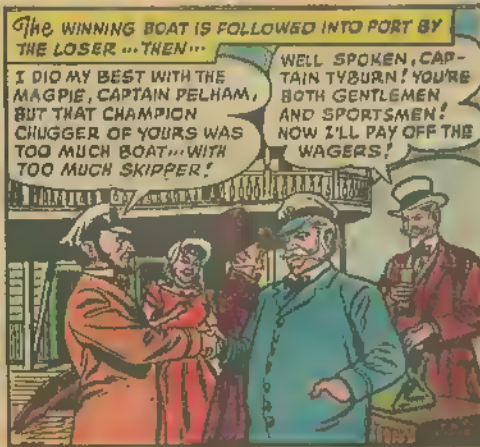
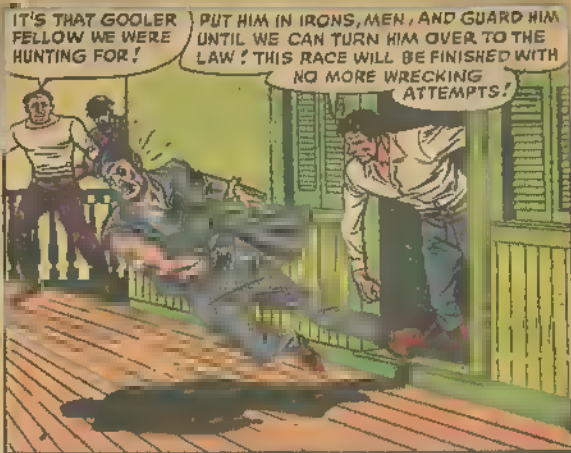
HE WAS HIDIN' IN OUR STATEROOM, JEB! THE ONLY PLACE WE DIDN'T LOOK!

NOW WE CAN STOP LOOKING AND START HAMMERING



HERE, RIVERS, TAKE THIS SAWED-OFF SPY OF YOURS OFF MY HANDS!





SIR ROGER

EGAD! I HOPE THAT SIGN MEANS WHAT IT SAYS! I'VE GOTTA GET A HAND-OUT IN SCATVILLE OR I'LL STARVE!

YOU ARE ENTERING
SCATVILLE

*The hand
of welcome
is out to
you!*



MY INNARDS ARE CRAVING SUSTENANCE AND I HAVEN'T GOT THE OUGH FOR EVEN A BLASTED HOT DOG!

HMM! THAT'S A PROSPEROUS LOOKING SHACK! IT OUGHTA BE GOOD FOR A TOUCH!

I'LL MAKE THE APPROACH IN MY USUAL DIGNIFIED MANNER!



...AND TRUST THE DOPES DON'T TOSS ME
OUT ON MY EAR, LIKE MOST
ALWAYS HAPPENS!



PERMIT ME TO PRESENT
MYSELF... SIR ROGER,
D.P.T., T.N.T., R.F.D...

SIR ROGER,
THE WORLD
TRAVELER?



WELL, I GUESS
YOU'D CALL ME
THAT! I TRAMP...
ER...TRAVEL
FROM BURG
TO BURG!

DO COME
IN! HEE.
HEE!

I'M MRS.
BIRDIE
FLUTTERBUM!

THEN MAYBE
WE'RE RELATED
...I COME
FROM A LONG
LINE OF BUMS
MYSELF!

OH, TEE, HEE, HEE, HOW CLEVER!
SIT DOWN WHILE I CALL THE
COMMITTEE CHAIRMAN AND
THEN WE'LL HAVE
LUNCH!

LUNCH! BY
JOVE, I
PICKED THE
RIGHT HOUSE
THIS TIME!

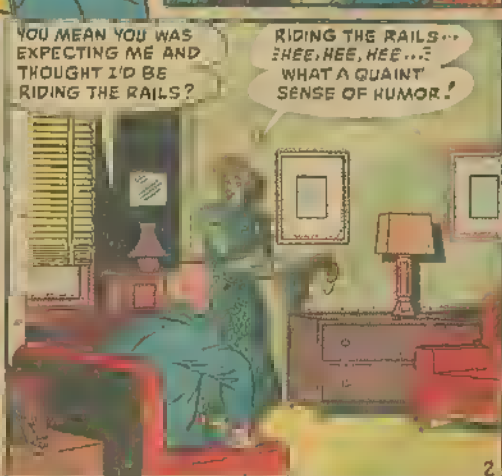
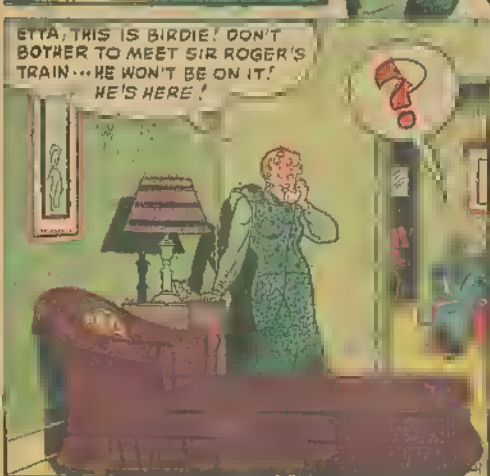


ETTA, THIS IS BIRDIE! DON'T
BOTHR TO MEET SIR ROGER'S
TRAIN...HE WON'T BE ON IT!
HE'S HERE!



YOU MEAN YOU WAS
EXPECTING ME AND
THOUGHT I'D BE
RIDING THE RAILS?

RIDING THE RAILS...
HEE, HEE, HEE...
WHAT A QUAIN
SENSE OF HUMOR!



THE GIRLS ARE
JUST GOING TO
LOVE YOU, SIR
ROGER!

MADAM, THAT'S
FLATTERING TO MY
EGO, BUT IT'S MY
STOMACH THAT'S
YAPPING FOR
ATTENTION! HOW
ABOUT CHOW?

WE'RE LEAVING RIGHT
THIS MINUTE FOR
LUNCHEON AT THE
TIDBIT TEAROOM!

TEAROOM? OH,
WELL, I GUESS
BEGGARS CAN'T
BE CHOOSERS!
LET'S GO!

WILL YOU
SAY A FEW
WORDS
BEFORE
WE EAT?

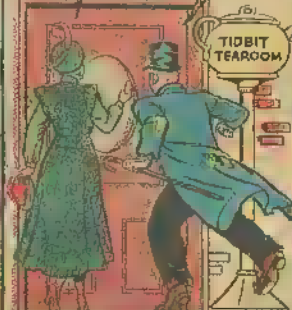
FEW AS POSSIBLE,
EGAD, UNTIL I
CONSUME SOME
VICTUALS AND
GET MY STRENGTH
BACK!

WELL, HERE
WE ARE!

FOOD AT
LAST!
SLOBBE!
SLURP!

FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD
FELLOW,
FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD
FELLOW...

AWK!
WHAT'S
ALL THE
NOISE?



FOR HE'S A JOLLY GOOD
FELLLLLOWWWW!
SIR RO-AWW-GER,
WELCOME TO YOU!

THEY'RE
SINGIN' THAT
FOR ME!
GULP! AT
LAST, MY
FAME HAS
SPREAD!
SNIFF!

MY GENIUS HAS
FINALLY BEEN
RECOGNIZED!
SOB!

MEMBERS OF THE WOMEN'S
CLUB OF SCATVILLE, IT IS MY
PLEASURE TEE, HEE! TO
PRESENT OUR GUEST OF
HONOR, THE FAMOUS
WORLD TRAVELER,
SIR ROGER!



LADIES, THIS WELCOME HAS TOUCHED MY HEARTSTRINGS! SOB! BUT MY BACKBONE IS LIKEWISE TOUCHING MY RIBS! LET'S EAT!

! SNIFF!

HA, HA!
WHAT A
WIT!

ADORABLY
ORIGINAL!

! SIGN!
HE'S
CARLING!

HOW DO YOU DO MOST
OF YOUR TRAVELLING?

OH, SHANKS!
MARE! ! GLUB!
! MUNCH!
! GOBBLE!

AND THAT
BUILDS UP
MY APPETITE!
HOW ABOUT
SOME MORE
SLUMGULLION?

HEE, HEE! HE'S
A RIOT!

I LOVE
ECCENTRIC
PEOPLE!

WHEN YOU FINISH
EATING, SIR ROGER...
IF YOU EVER DO...
WE'LL GO DIRECTLY
TO THE WOMEN'S
CLUB FOR YOUR
LECTURE!

GULP!
SLURP!

YOU WANT I SHOULD TALK
ABOUT MY TRAVELS?
MADAM, I WILL BE GLAD
TO OBLIGE IN PAYMENT
FOR SUCH A SNAZZY
HAND-OUT!

MEANWHILE...

HMM! SOMEBODY WAS
SUPPOSED TO MEET ME
HERE, BUT I'VE WAITED
OVER AN HOUR AND
NO ONE'S SHOWN
UP!

SCATVILL

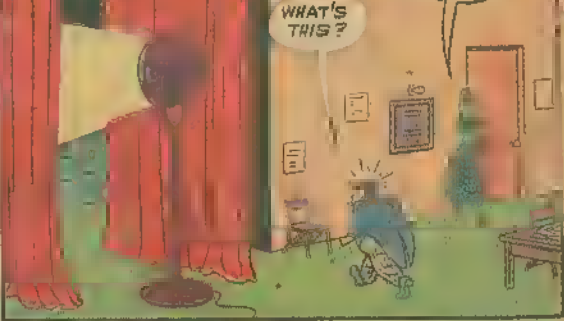
MY LECTURE AT THE WOMEN'S CLUB
WAS SCHEDULED FOR TWO O'CLOCK
AND IT'S PAST THAT TIME ALREADY!
I'D BETTER TAKE A TAXI!

TAXI

IF I WEREN'T GETTING A HUNDRED SMACKERS FOR THIS APPEARANCE, I WOULDN'T SHOW UP! I'M NOT USED TO BEING IGNORED!



...AND I'VE BEEN ASKED TO TALK TO YOU ABOUT MY TRAVELS, SO HERE GOES!



...SOMETIMES I SLEEP IN HAYSTACKS AND SOMETIMES IN FLOPHOUSES AND...

MEN AREN'T ALLOWED IN THIS AUDIENCE... THIS IS THE WOMEN'S CLUB! AND GO QUIETLY... SIR ROGER'S SPEAKING!

HUH?



HE'S NOT SIR ROGER! I'M SIR ROGER!

HE'S SIR ROGER!



THIS IS AN OUTRAGE! I AM SIR ROGER DE FLOOP, WORLD TRAVELER AND LECTURER, AND I CAN PROVE IT BY THIS ENGRAVED MEDAL FROM THE NATIONAL TRAVELER'S ASSOCIATION!

GOOD GRACIOUS! IT'S TRUE! THEN WHO'S HE?



HE'S AN IMPOSTOR

AN IMPOSTOR? AND HE ATE OUR FOOD

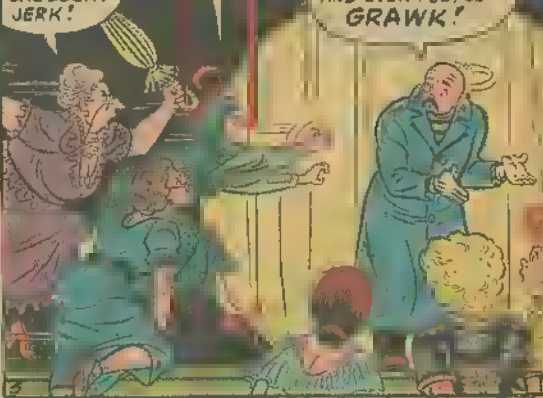
SOMETIMES I LIFT MY GRUB...



THIEF! DOUBLE-CROSSER! JERK!

WRETCH!

SOMETIMES I'M CHASED BY DOGS AND EVEN PEOPLE... GRAWK!



GET OUT,
YOU CROOK!

BUT, MRS. FLUTTERBUM, IT
WAS YOUR IDEA! I...
HELP!



KNUCKLEHEAD!
LUMMOX!
GALOOT!

A MINUTE AGO I WAS A
BLASTED HERO! NOW, MY
NAME'S MUD! I DON'T
GET IT!



GET OUT!
SCRAM!
BEAT IT!
SCAT!

NOW I KNOW WHERE
THE TOWN GOT ITS
NAME! PANT!
PANT!
PANT!

I NEVER
SAW ANY-
ONE SO
UNCOUTH!

PANT!
PANT'S ALL
I GOTTA SAY
IS... WOMEN
ARE FICKLE!

OH WELL, THERE ISN'T ANY USE
BOTHERING MY BRAIN WITH THE
DOPEY INCONSISTENCIES OF
HUMAN BEHAVIOR!



AN
UTTER,
DOPE!

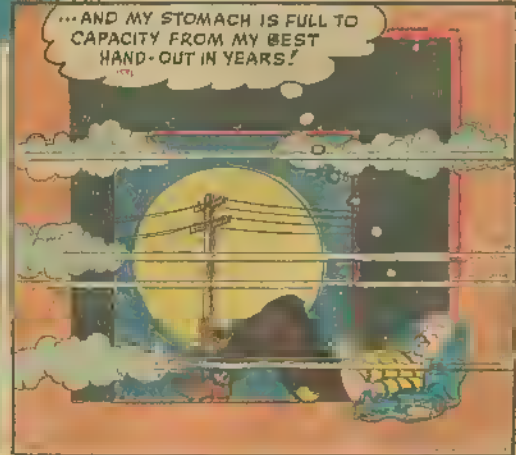
SCATVILLE
CITY LIMITS

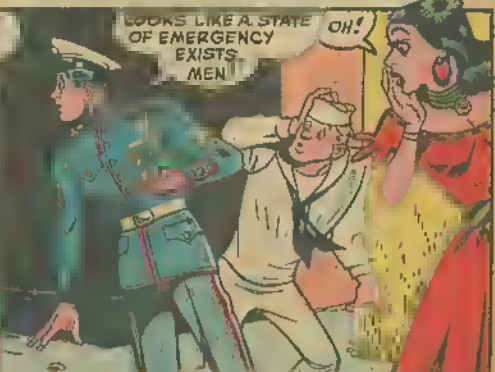
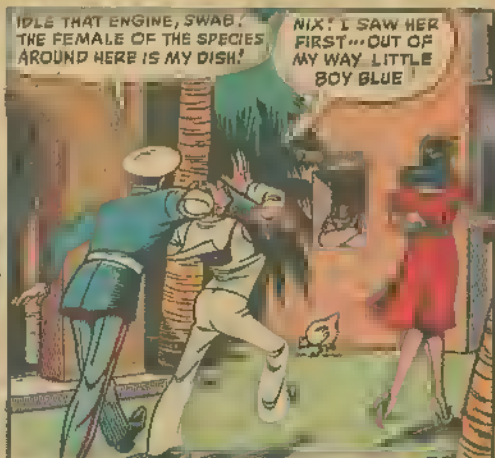
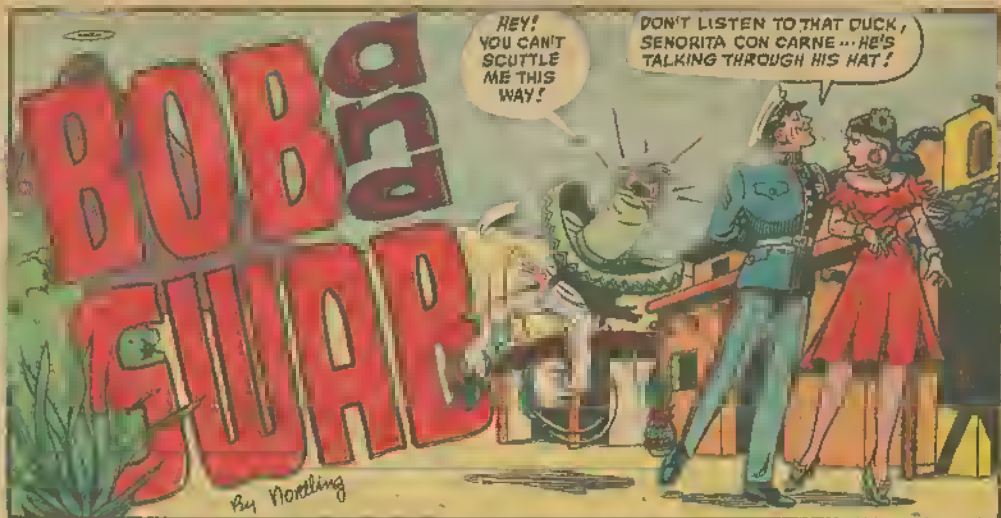


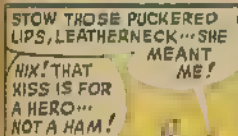
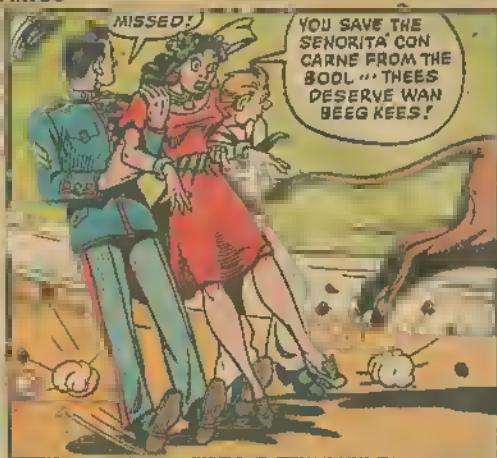
MY SPECIAL CONVEYANCE
IS READY TO TAKE ME
ON MY WAY...



...AND MY STOMACH IS FULL TO
CAPACITY FROM MY BEST
HAND-OUT IN YEARS!







SENORS! DO NOT MAKE THE SQUABBLE... I WEEEL KEEES THE WAN WHO CONQUERS EL FEARO, THE BOOL, THEES AFTERNOON BEEN THE ARENA! ADIOS! I'LL BE WAITING THERE!



500 PESO PRIZE! GRAND AMATEUR TOREADOR CONTEST

Against
EL FEARO



REGISTER
NOW AT
\$10.00!!!
TH III



SENORS... SENORITAS! PRESENTEENG
LOS TOREADORES ROBERTO AND SWABERTO
FACING THE TERRIBLE BOOL, EL
FEARO!

THERE'S
SENORITA
CON CARNE
WAVING AT
US!

WHEN I WAVE THIS
CHLOROFORM UNDER
EL FEARO'S NOSE, HE'LL
BLACK OUT LIKE A FOG
AND I'LL BE KISSING
CON CARNE!

UHP!
HERE COMES
STEAK ON
THE HOOF!

I'D RATHER HAVE MINE
ON A PLATE... OOPS!
PHEW!

HEY!
WATCH
OUT!

YAWN! I FEEL
BUNK HAPPY...
YAWN!

WAKE UP, MATE,
OR IT'S TAPS FOR
YOU!

MUSTN'T
SLEEP...
ZZZZ!

MEESED
HEEM!

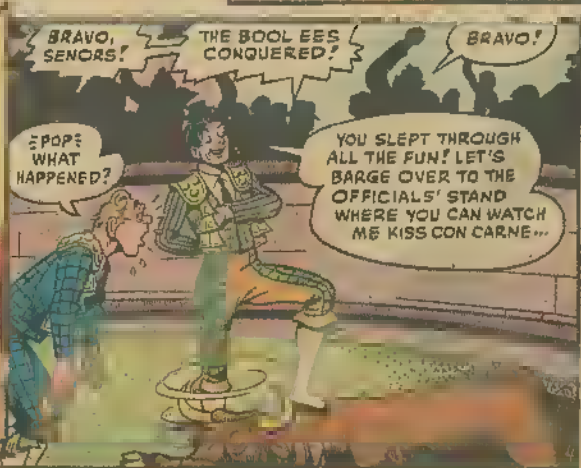
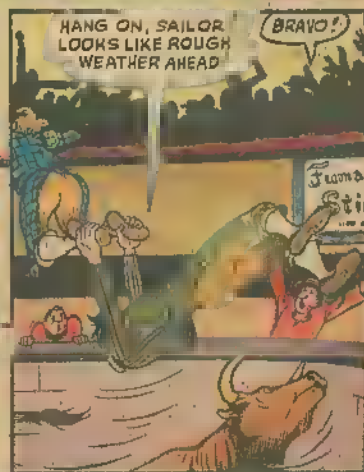
BRAVO! BRAVO,
SWABERTO!

MEESED
AGAIN!

SWABERTO... HE
EES AN ARTEEST!

BRAVO!

ZZZZ...
SOMEONE
SHOW ME
MY SACK...
ZZZZ!



YOU ARE THE WEENER, SWABERTO!
NEVER DO I SEE SUCH BOOL
DODGING BEEN ALL MY
LIFE!

GUESS I
SHOULD'VE TAKEN
THIS CHLOROFORM!



KEES ME YOU
WONDERFUL
TOREADOR...
KEES ME!

YUMMY-YUM-YUM!
OUT OF MY WAY,
MARINE!



SHACKO!

BOINGGG!
SHOOT ME
WHILE I'M
HAPPY!



NOW YOU
MARRY
CON
CARNE,
NO?

I AM CON CARNE'S PAPA!
FAMILY RULE SAYS SENOR
WHO KEESES MY DAUGHTER
MARRIES HER! I MAKE
GOOD PAPA-IN-LAW...
YOU RAISE BEEG FAMILY
LIKE ME, NO?



MARRIAGE?
=ULP??
NO!

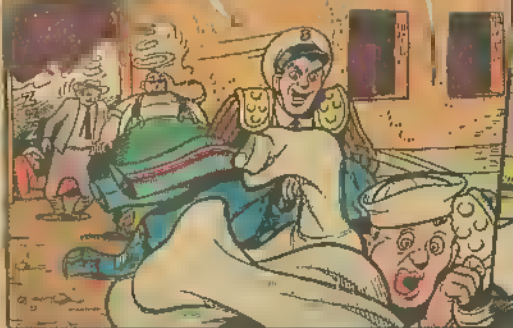
OUT THIS HATCH-
WAY, SWAB...AND
PICK UP OUR DUDS!
I'LL TOSS THEM
SOME CANNED
SIESTA-STUFF!



Later...

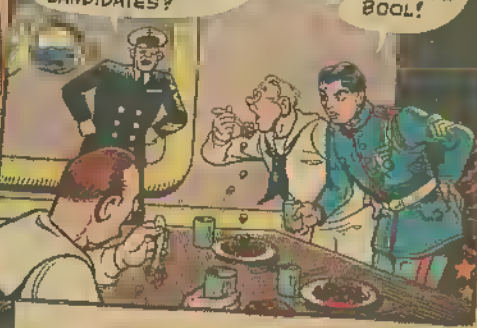
HA! I SHOULD'VE LEFT
YOU THERE! THE CHIEF
MIGHT HAVE GIVEN YOU
A THIRTY DAY LEAVE FOR
A HONEYMOON!

I AM
MARRIED...
TO THE U.S.
NAVY!



YOU'RE SUPPOSED
TO SIT DOWN AT
THESE MESS TABLES!
WHAT'S THE MATTER
WITH YOU TWO BRIG
CANDIDATES?

PSST! DON'T TRY
TO EXPLAIN,
SWABBIE! THE
CHIEF WILL
THINK WE WERE
THROWING THE
BOOL!



Dark River Rising

THE man in the fancy frock coat stood knee deep in dark, oily water. Around him the rising flood of the Mississippi rolled between far banks, and above him the dark clouds poured their endless torrents into the flood. The man's handsome, expensive coat and his frilled shirt and doeskin britches were soaked and ruined, yet he smiled beneath his elegant mustaches and waited patiently as the rising river came to his knees, his thighs and, at last, to his waist.

It was almost nightfall when he saw the river boat through the curtain of rain. He waited until the big side-wheeler was almost abreast and began to shout, "Ahoy, Paragon! Take me aboard!"

The big boat snorted and its paddles lashed the water to foam. On the Texas, Captain Pelham stood beside Jeb Rivers and Catfish as the crew put out a plank and took the sodden refugee aboard. A few moments later they faced the stranger.

"My name's Harris," he said, smiling, "and I appreciate your picking me up. I might as well tell you, I'm a gambler. The Lady of Natchez has an aversion to gamblers. When they found out my profession, they kicked me out on that sandbar and left me marooned. I have the money to pay my passage to New Orleans."

Captain Pelham scowled. "There'll be no gambling on my boat, but I'll not leave a wayfarer to perish in the flood. You may have passage to New Orleans. This is Jeb Rivers, my pilot, and his young friend, Catfish. They'll see that you're given a berth."

Young Jeb Rivers, veteran of the Mississippi in all its moods and aspects, opened his mouth as if to protest and then closed it again. As soon as he had shown the gambler to his berth, he and Catfish went below for their supper. Jeb had little to say. He seemed thoughtful, almost moody. Catfish, who knew his friend and guardian in all his moods, respected that silence. Jeb had something on his mind, and ten to one it was something that boded no good for somebody.

Shortly before dark the Paragon tied up in a protected eddy of the river to spend its night where floating logs and snags could not reach it. Soon after that the gambler who called

himself Harris, slipped from his cabin. He looked around, found the ornate corridor empty and made his way deep into the forward hold with a craft that spoke of long familiarity with river steamboats.

"The fools," the man said aloud as he knelt over the planking of the steamboat's bottom. "They swallowed the whole story, hook, line and sinker."

From beneath the water-soaked coat he took a brace and a wide bit. On his knees, he began to drill an inch-wide hole in the bottom of the Paragon. "A few holes and she'll begin to settle. They'll notice it around midnight and then it will be too late. The only thing they can do is abandon ship—right into the arms of my lads who'll be waiting to shut their noisy mouths forever, and then come aboard to loot to their heart's content before the old hulk goes down."

He made two or three swings with the brace and bit and then froze. From the shadows, the voice of Jeb Rivers said softly, "It was a nice try, Pirate, but you made too many mistakes."

The man whirled, flinging aside the brace and bit, snarling as he snatched a derringer pistol from his waistcoat. But Jeb was as swift as a catamount, and as deadly. He surged forward and drove the pirate to the floor, his fists working like pistons. The derringer exploded harmlessly into the planking. There was a brief, deadly struggle and then Jeb stood up over the limp, motionless figure of his opponent.

At that moment Catfish burst in with Captain Pelham. As they gaped, Jeb recovered his lost hat and grinned at them. "I think you can lock up this river pirate, Cap'n. He's looted his last boat. He aimed to drill holes in your bottom and start you sinking where his pirate crew was waiting to swarm aboard for looting." He smiled at Captain Pelham's amazement. "He said the Lady of Natchez put him on that bar, but she draws too much water to get close. That's one of the few permanent sandbars in the river, Cap'n. Every pilot knows it—and every pirate. Since this fellow wasn't a pilot, I guessed he was a pirate and sort of kept an eye on him."

"That's Jeb Rivers," Catfish cut in proudly. "When he's around, nobody can get by with anything."

BETTY BATES



"Urn Burial"

A WEALTHY COLLECTOR
OF RARE BOOKS...
MURDERED...!

BUT WHY DID THE
KILLERS TRY TO
STEAL ONLY THE
LEAST VALUABLE
OF HIS PRICELESS
COLLECTION?

SEEKING THE ANSWER,
BETTY BATES,
DISTRICT ATTORNEY,
FINDS THAT A
LITTLE LEARNING
CAN INDEED BE
A DANGEROUS
THING!

EARLY MORNING IN THE OFFICE OF BETTY
BATES, DISTRICT ATTORNEY...

HAVE A HEART, BETTY! AS A POLICE REPORTER
I GO OUT ON PLENTY OF TOUGH, DANGEROUS
CASES! I NEED A GUN TO PROTECT MYSELF!

NONSENSE! YOU'D BE
MORE LIKELY TO SHOOT
YOURSELF THAN THE
TARGET!



I WAS A CRACK SHOT ON THE COLLEGE
RIFLE TEAM! COME ON, BETTY! OKAY
MY APPLICATION FOR
A GUN PERMIT!

NOTHING DOING,
LARRY... SAY!
HERE'S AN INTERESTING
ITEM IN THE MORNING
MAIL!



A LETTER FROM GREVILLE NASH!
SAYS THAT HE IS IN GREAT
DANGER! WANTS TO SEE
ME AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!

GREVILLE NASH?
ISN'T HE
THE GREAT
BOOK
COLLECTOR?



RIGHT! THEY SAY HE'S
GOT A LIBRARY WORTH
NEARLY HALF A MILLION
DOLLARS! PERHAPS I'D
BETTER DRIVE OVER TO
HIS PLACE RIGHT AWAY!

YOUR CHAUFFEUR
AWAITS YOU,
MA'AM!



THAT'S GREVILLE NASH'S JOINT! REAL
PLUSH, BETTY! HIS FAMILY IS THE KIND
THAT'S BEEN PACKING IT AWAY IN VAULTS
FOR GENERATIONS!

IT'S NO WONDER
HE CAN AFFORD TO
INDULGE HIS PASSION
FOR RARE BOOKS!



MEANWHILE, IN THE NASH MANSION...

A GENUINE FOLIO EDITION
OF BEN JONSON'S 'VOLPONE'!
IT WILL MAKE A WONDERFUL
ADDITION TO MY LIBRARY!



WH-WHAT ARE YOU DOING
HERE? I DIDN'T ASK YOU TO
COME! GET OUT BEFORE I...

DON'T THREATEN
ME, NASH!



I HATE PEOPLE WHO
MAKE THREATS!
IT'S SUCH AN IDLE
PASTIME! I ALWAYS
PREFER TO ACT!

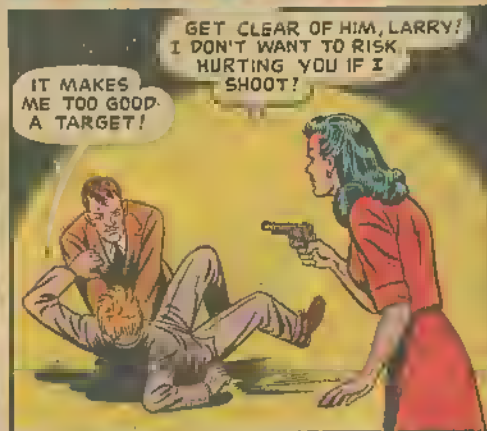
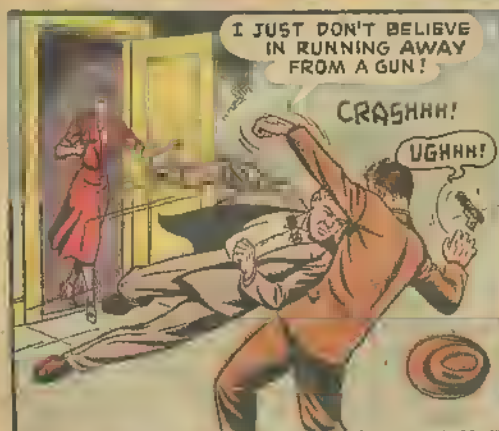
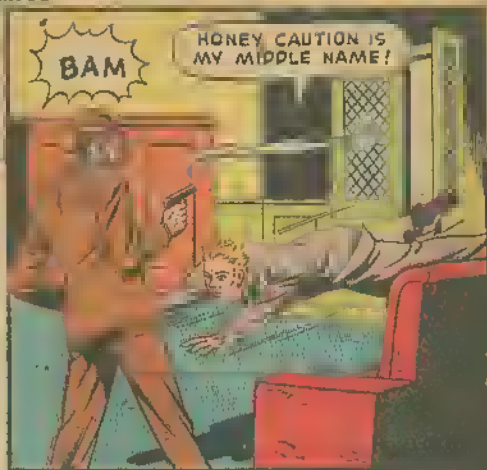
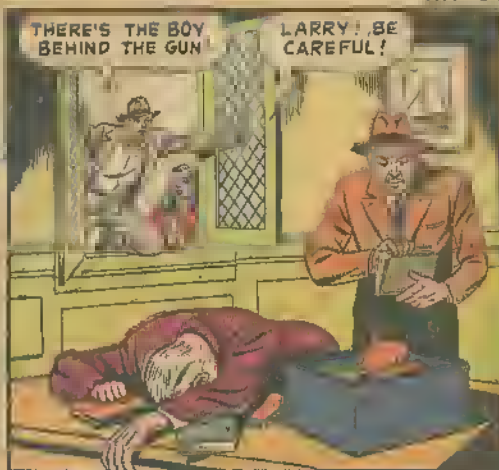
BANG!



DID YOU HEAR THAT, BETTY?

I SURE DID! IT
WAS A SHOT!





MOMENTS LATER...

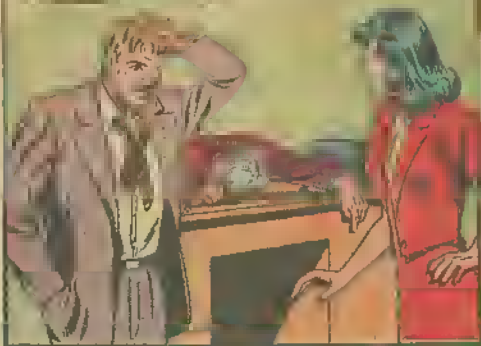
I HATE TO ASK THE USUAL THING! BUT WHAT HAPPENED? I THOUGHT I WAS DOING FINE BEFORE THE LIGHTS BLEW OUT!

THE KILLER HAD A PARTNER LURKING AROUND! HE GRABBED MY GUN AND REALLY PUT IT TO WORK ON YOU! I WAS AFRAID HE FRACTURED YOUR SKULL!



THIS MIGHT BE A GOOD POINT AT WHICH TO ASK YOU TO RECONSIDER GRANTING ME THAT .GUN PERMIT! IT WOULD HAVE SAVED US A LOT OF GRIEF!

MAYBE!



WE'VE GOT A MURDER CASE ON OUR HANDS! I'LL CALL THE CORONER!

AND I'LL CALL MY NEWSPAPER! I'LL SAY THIS MUCH FOR YOU, BETTY! HANGING AROUND YOUR OFFICE IS ALWAYS GOOD FOR HEADLINES!



ONE HOUR LATER...

YOU'VE BEEN VERY HELPFUL! THAT WILL BE ALL FOR NOW! DON'T GO TOO FAR AWAY! I MAY NEED YOU FOR FURTHER QUESTIONING!

YES, MISS GATES!



HOW'D YOU MAKE OUT ON THE HOUSEHOLD HELP QUIZ?

I TURNED UP A FEW PUZZLING ANGLES! SEEMS THAT GREVILLE NASH WASN'T AS WEALTHY AS HE APPEARED TO BE! THE FACT IS HE WAS

THIS WHOLE SET-UP IS MOSTLY FRONT! HE HAD ONLY A FEW SERVANTS TO KEEP UP THE PLACE, AND HE COULDN'T PAY A LOT OF THE BILLS! BUT HE STILL INDULGED HIS HOBBY OF COLLECTING RARE BOOKS!

APPARENTLY THAT'S WHAT THE KILLERS WERE AFTER! THEY GOT AWAY WITH A COPY OF THOMAS BROWNE'S 'URN BURIAL' OUT OF THIS CRATE OF RECENTLY DELIVERED FIRST EDITIONS!

PRETTY DISCRIMINATING KILLERS, EH, BETTY?

THAT IS NEWS!

BANKRUPT!



AS A MATTER OF FACT, THEY WEREN'T! 'URN BURIAL' IS ONLY WORTH A COUPLE OF HUNDRED DOLLARS! ACCORDING TO THE BILL OF LADING, ANY OF THE OTHER BOOKS IN THIS CASE IS WORTH TWENTY TIMES THAT SUM!

JUST SHOWS WHAT HAPPENS WHEN CROOKS DON'T GET AN EDUCATION!



NO, LARRY, I THINK THOSE MEN WERE AFTER 'URN BURIAL' -- AND THEY GOT IT! BUT WHY SHOULD THEY CHOOSE THAT PARTICULAR VOLUME?

HONEY, THAT'S THE SIXTY-FOUR DOLLAR QUESTION! YOU DO THE BRAINWORK! THAT'S WHAT THE CITY PAYS YOU FOR!



HMMM! A NOTE IN GREVILLE NASH'S HANDWRITING! MUST HAVE THOUGHT IT IMPORTANT FROM THE WAY HE UNDERLINED IT! THAT'S THE TITLE OF A FAMOUS HISTORY BOOK!



A QUICK SEARCH THROUGH THE SHELVES OF RARE BOOKS DISCLOSES...

GOLLY! GIBBONS' 'DECLINE AND FALL' IS A DUMMY VOLUME, AND IT'S LOADED WITH A FORTUNE IN UN-CUT DIAMONDS!



WHAT A HARD! I THOUGHT YOU SAID GREVILLE NASH WAS BROKE!

IT'S STARTING TO ADD UP NOW, LARRY! SOMETHING TELLS ME THAT THE MEN WHO KILLED NASH WILL BE BACK! AND THIS TIME I'LL BE READY FOR THEM!

MIDNIGHT...



GOOD EVENING, GENTLEMEN! I'VE BEEN EXPECTING YOU TO PAY A RETURN VISIT! I THINK I KNOW WHAT YOU'RE LOOKING FOR!

WHERE'D HE PUT THE STUFF?



RIGHT HERE! LOOKS LIKE GREVILLE NASH HELD OUT ON YOU BOYS FOR QUITE A WHILE! HE COULDN'T HAVE PUT BY A FORTUNE IN DIAMONDS LIKE THESE FROM JUST ONE SHIPMENT!



BUT THAT'S WHY YOU WERE ANGRY WITH HIM, WASN'T IT? HE WAS ACTING AS A FRONT FOR A NEAT LITTLE SMUGGLING RACKET! NO ONE WOULD SUSPECT GREVILLE NASH OF SMUGGLING DIAMONDS INTO THIS COUNTRY IN THE BINDING OF HIS RARE IMPORTED BOOKS!



BUT THEN NASH GOT IDEAS! HE DIDN'T TURN OVER ALL THE DIAMONDS TO YOU! WHEN YOU FOUND OUT, YOU DECIDED TO KILL HIM! YOU DIDN'T KNOW HE'D ALREADY REMOVED THE LATEST SHIPMENT FROM THE BINDING ON THE COPY OF 'URN BURIAL' THAT YOU STOLE!



CUT THE SMALL TALK! HAND OVER THE... EYOW!

HERE THEY ARE!



YOU LITTLE DEVIL! I'LL BLAST... OWW!



GET YOUR HANDS UP! OR I'LL PUT THE NEXT BULLET IN A PLACE WHERE IT WILL DO THE MOST GOOD!

LARRY...DARLING! THANK GOODNESS YOU WEREN'T LYING ABOUT BEING A CRACK SHOT!



LATER, WHEN THE CASE OF THE DIAMOND SMUGGLERS IS OVER...

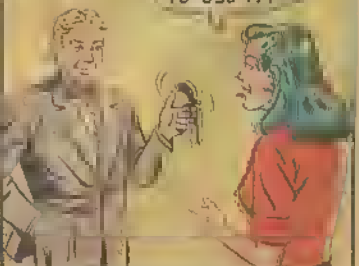
SO THEY'RE SELLING GREVILLE NASH'S ESTATE! I GUESS THIS IS WHAT HE TRIED TO FORESTALL WHEN HE WENT IN FOR SMUGGLING! BUT HE PLAYED IN A LEAGUE THAT WAS TOO FAST AND ROUGH FOR HIM!

HE KNEW HIS CRIMINAL PALS WERE AFTER HIM! THAT'S WHY HE WROTE TO YOU!



AREN'T YOU GLAD I WAS THOUGHTFUL ENOUGH TO BORROW YOUR GUN?

YOU EARNED THE PERMIT TO CARRY IT THE HARD WAY, LARRY, BY PROVING YOU KNEW HOW... AND WHEN TO USE IT!



U.S. ROYAL

WITH HIS
JET-PROPELLED BIKE



**SPOILING THE
GANGSTERS' SCHEME**



THE STATE'S STAR WITNESS IS ON HIS WAY BY TRAIN TO SEND A VICIOUS GANG LEADER UP THE RIVER... UNTIL THE GANGSTER'S MOB DECIDES TO SEND THE TRAIN INTO THE RIVER...

BOOM!

THERE GOES THE BRIDGE! TOO BAD WE CAN'T STICK AROUND TO WATCH THE BIG SPLASH!

BUT DEPUTY U.S. ROYAL AND THE ELM CITY BIKE CLUB BOYS ARE ON HAND WITH A FEW PLANS OF THEIR OWN!

BOYS, YOU TAG THEIR CAR WHILE I TRY TO HEAD OFF THE TRAIN... SHE'S DUE HERE IN 5 MINUTES!

THERE'S THE CONTROL STATION UP AHEAD... NOW IF THEY CAN JUST RADIO THE TRAIN ENGINEER IN TIME!

SOON INSIDE THE CAB OF THE DOOMED TRAIN...

...ALL BRAKES DOWN FOR EMERGENCY STOP... WRECKED BRIDGE IMMEDIATELY AHEAD...

YOUR SPEED SAVED OUR LIVES, ROYAL!

WE CAUGHT THE GANGSTERS -- THANKS TO THE BOYS HERE TIPPING US OFF TO THEIR LICENSE NUMBER!

THEY MIGHT HAVE GOTTEN AWAY WITH IT, TOO, IF WE ALL HADN'T BEEN RIDIN' ON U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES!

FELLAS, IF IT'S BIKE SPEED WITH SAFETY YOU'RE AFTER, INSIST ON U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRES! THAT BUILT-IN SKID-CHAIN MEANS TOP CONTROL AT ALL TIMES!

BIKE COMICS

EVERYBODY'S TALKING ABOUT **BIKE COMICS!** GET YOUR COPY TODAY AT YOUR U.S. ROYAL BIKE TIRE DEALERS. IT'S

FREE!

**U.S. ROYAL
BIKE TIRES**

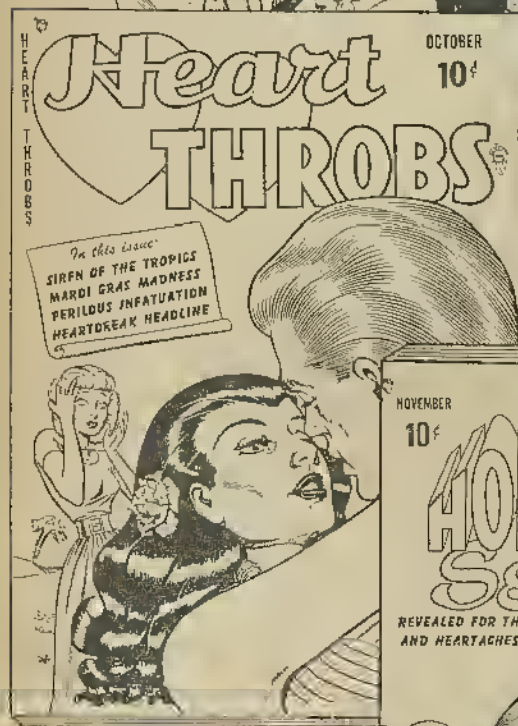
America's Fastest Selling Tires



UNITED STATES RUBBER COMPANY
Serving Through Science

A QUALITY ROMANCE PUBLICATION

MEANS
YOU'LL
GET THE
BEST!



THRILLING TALES PLUS THE
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MAKE THESE MAGAZINES
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IN THE FIELD!

GET THE BEST
GET
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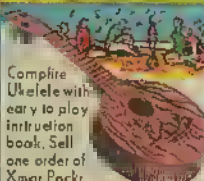
PRIZES FOR YOU!



A beautiful Wrist Watch. Your choice of Boy's or Girl's Model. Sell one order plus \$1.50.



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Complete Ukulele with easy to play instruction book. Sell one order of Xmas Packs.



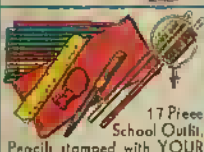
Your choice of Bride or Bride-maid Doll. Sell one order of Xmas Packs.



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HUBBA!

Lites. Cycles of never-ending light for your bike. Sell one order of Xmas Packs.



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Every year thousands of Boys and Girls get these swell prizes for themselves and gifts for Mother and Dad. Many prizes shown here and over 20 others in our Big Prize Book are GIVEN WITHOUT A CENT OF COST for selling 40 Xmas Packs at 10c each. Some of the bigger prizes require extra money as stated in the Big Prize Book.

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